

March 14, 2005

Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator
Maryland State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

I am writing to supplement the Montgomery County Council's recently submitted statement on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Intercounty Connector Study. I want to amplify some of the concerns I expressed at our meeting that are not incorporated in the Council's correspondence.

- A full interchange at US 29 should be explored. If this is problematic because of the future Fairland Road interchange, please remember that the Fairland Road interchange may never be needed. The construction of this interchange will eliminate the need for the partial interchange on Briggs Chaney Road.
- I urge the State Highway Administration (SHA) to work with the community in determining the impacts of the partial interchange at Briggs Chaney Road. This proposal will significantly impact residential development on Briggs Chaney Road. I do not believe that the community has been adequately informed of this proposal.
- I would also like to ensure that the SHA will analyze the Sierra Club of Maryland's review of the DEIS.
- Please acquire project replacement parkland for a build option in the same quantity and quality in the same watershed from which the parkland is being taken. Environmental stewardship must include adequate mitigation. If the same quality land is not available, more land in the same area should be acquired to reduce imperviousness.
- Fairdale Road has some sidewalk. If more sidewalk is to be constructed, it should be capped at 10 percent imperviousness as required in the Special Protection Area (SPA). If additional land can not be purchased, then existing imperviousness should be removed.

- Please proceed with the master-planned 4- lane widening of MD 198 in Burtonsville to facilitate redevelopment of the commercial area.

I apologize for submitting these comments after the February 25 DEIS comment deadline. However, this is a supplement to the Council March 1 comment to ensure that the issues are adequately and accurately reflected.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Praisner
Councilmember

F:Sherry/ICC/DEIS follow up